

- C² cont'd
- a) introducing into said plant cell, a viral RNA vector derived from a satellite RNA virus, wherein said vector comprises said inhibitory RNA or a chimeric nucleic acid which when transcribed yields said inhibitory RNA and wherein said inhibitory RNA comprises sense RNA; and
 - b) introducing a corresponding helper virus into said plant cell.
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C²

34. (Amended) The method of claim 32, wherein said inhibitory RNA further comprises antisense RNA.

38. (Amended) The method of claim 32, wherein said viral RNA vector is derived from STMV and wherein said helper virus is tobacco mosaic virus.

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39. (Amended) A method for the introduction of inhibitory RNA into the cytoplasm of plant cells, said method comprising:

- a) introducing into said plant cell a viral RNA vector derived from satellite tobacco necrosis virus, wherein said vector comprises said inhibitory RNA, or a chimeric nucleic acid which when transcribed yields said inhibitory RNA, and an origin of assembly of tobacco mosaic virus; and
- b) introducing a corresponding helper virus into said plant cell, wherein said helper virus is derived from tobacco necrosis virus and comprises a coat protein gene of tobacco mosaic virus.

42. (Amended) The method of any one of claims 32, 34, 38 and 39 to 41, wherein said plant is selected from *Nicotinia* spp, *Oryza sativa*, *Zea Mays*, *Brassica* spp., *Gossypium* spp., *Triticum* spp., *Arabidopsis* spp. or *Petunia* spp.

CH 43. (Amended) A kit for silencing endogenous genes by introduction of inhibitory RNA in the cytoplasm of a plant cell, said kit comprising

- a) a viral RNA vector derived from a satellite RNA virus, said vector comprising a chimeric nucleic acid which when transcribed yields said inhibitory RNA or which comprises said inhibitory RNA, wherein said inhibitory RNA comprises sense RNA; and
- b) a corresponding helper virus.

CS 45. (Amended) The kit of claim 43, wherein said inhibitory RNA further comprises antisense RNA.

49. (Amended) The kit of claim 43, wherein said viral RNA vector is derived from STMV and wherein said corresponding helper virus is tobacco mosaic virus.

CL 50. (Amended) A kit for introduction of inhibitory RNA into the cytoplasm of a plant cell, said kit comprising:

- a) a viral RNA vector derived from satellite tobacco necrosis virus, wherein said vector comprises said inhibitory RNA, or a chimeric nucleic acid which

Cb cont'd

when transcribed yields said inhibitory RNA, and an origin of assembly of tobacco mosaic virus; and

- b) a corresponding helper virus derived from tobacco necrosis virus, said virus comprising the coat protein gene of tobacco mosaic virus.
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